

1. (Amended) A cleaning method comprising:

a pre-cleaning step of performing at least immersion cleaning for a work using a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant in a first bath;

and

a post-cleaning step of performing at least immersion cleaning for the work processed in the pre-cleaning step using a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant in a second bath;

wherein, in the post-cleaning step, an operation of evacuating the inside of the second bath and an operation of exposing an interior of the second bath to air are repeatedly performed while the work is being immersed in the liquid of the second bath.

2. (Amended) The cleaning method according to Claim 1 further including the step of inclining the work relative to a surface of the cleaning liquid in at least one of the pre-cleaning step and the post-cleaning step.

3. (Amended) The cleaning method according to Claim 1 further including the step of moving the work up and down within the cleaning liquid during at least one of the pre-cleaning step and the post-cleaning step.

5. (Amended) The cleaning method according to Claim 1, wherein the work comprises a liquid crystal panel.

6. (Amended) The cleaning method according to Claim 5, wherein the liquid crystal panels are placed adjacent to each other in the first and second baths.

7. (Amended) A cleaning method comprising:

a pre-cleaning step including immersing an object to be cleaned in a first bath having a hydrocarbon based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant; and

a post-cleaning step including immersing the object to be cleaned from the pre-cleaning step in a second bath containing a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant and while the object to be cleaned is immersed in the second bath, repeatedly changing a pressure in the second bath from an original state when the object to be cleaned is immersed in the second bath, to a different state and back to the original state.

91 8. (Amended) The cleaning method of Claim 7, wherein said step of changing the pressure in the second bath further comprises reducing the pressure to a reduced state which is at a lower pressure than the original state and, thereafter, returning the pressure to the original state.

Sub B1 9. (Amended) A cleaning method comprising:

a pre-cleaning step including immersing an object to be cleaned in a first bath having a hydrocarbon based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant; and

a post-cleaning step including immersing the object to be cleaned from the pre-cleaning step in a second bath containing a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant while repeatedly changing a pressure from an original state to a reduced state of about 50 to 100 torr and back to the original state in the second bath.

10. (Amended) A cleaning method comprising:

a pre-cleaning step including immersing an object to be cleaned in a first bath having a hydrocarbon based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant; and

92 a post-cleaning step including immersing the object to be cleaned from the pre-cleaning step in a second bath containing a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant while repeatedly changing a pressure from about atmospheric pressure to a reduced state and back to about atmospheric ^{pressure} state in the second bath.